

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 9-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

A. Co-Pending Application No. 10/930,804 (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0063292)

Claims 1 and 9 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of co-pending Application No. 10/930,804 (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0063292).

B. Co-Pending Application No. 10/930,804 (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0063292) in view of Wariishi

Claims 1-3 and 9-12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of co-pending Application No. 10/930,804 (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0063292), in view of Wariishi.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application was filed on December 1, 2003 and is the earlier-filed application with respect to the '804 co-pending application, which was filed on September 1, 2004. Since only the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections remain and the present application is the earlier filed application with respect to the '804 application, the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections should be withdrawn in the present application since there are no other grounds of rejection and the present application should be allowed to issue in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 804(I)(B)(1).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 10/724,353

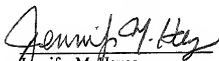
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II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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